

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:**

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

**SUBMITTED TO:**

[CWGC Canadian Agency](#)

66 Slater Street

Suite 1707

Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: [Dominique Boulais](#)

**Report Date:** 22 March 2015

**Reason for Submission:** ("X" means purpose of the report)

| <b>Casualty Identification:</b> |   | <b>Burial Information:</b> |   |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Confirmed Identity              | X | Burial Location Identified | X |
| Most Probable Identity          |   | Grave Stone Correction     | X |
| Questionable Identity           |   | Grave Records Correction   | X |
| Incorrect Identity              |   | Request for CWGC Details   |   |
| Other                           |   | Other                      |   |

**Supporting Documents:** (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

| <b>Casualty Identification:</b>    |                      | <b>Burial Information:</b>  |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Parfitt, David George              | i                    | Regina Trench Cemetery      | <a href="#">link</a> |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion | i                    | Grandcourt, France          | i                    |
| Sergeant Major #602                | i                    | Plot 7 Row G Grave 16       | i                    |
| 26 September 1916                  | <a href="#">link</a> | Date of Burial / Exhumation | i                    |
| Attestation Papers                 | <a href="#">link</a> | Cemetery Schematic          | <a href="#">link</a> |
| Service Record                     |                      | Graves Registration Report  | 7                    |
| Circumstance of Casualty           | 1                    | Concentration of Grave      | 8                    |
| CEF Canada Register                | 2                    | Headstone Register          |                      |
| War Diary Extract(s)               | 3                    | Casualty Spreadsheet        |                      |
| Area Map(s)                        | 4                    | Trench Map Exhumation       |                      |
| Trench Map(s)                      | 5                    | Grave Stone Photograph      |                      |
| Possible Candidates List           | 6                    | Grave Stone Inscription     |                      |
| Excluded Candidates List           |                      | Memorial Inscription/Photo  |                      |
| Other                              |                      | Reporting and Review        | 9                    |

**Summary of Findings:**

The Graves Registration Report Form for Plot 7 Row G Grave 16 lists an "8<sup>th</sup> Canadian UNKNOWN Sgt. Maj."

There are four (4) CSM's of the 8th Bn. on Vimy (Bishop, McCarthy, McKensie and Parfitt). Only CSM David George Parfitt "D" Coy 8th Bn. was KIA near Courcellette on or about 26 September 1916.

## Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Plot 7 Row G Grave 16 are those of Company Sergeant Major David George Parfitt of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Infantry. The findings are based on the following:

1. The "Circumstance of Death" file for CSM Parfitt reports that on or since 26 September 1916 he was previously reported missing, believed killed and now for official purposes presumed to have died (Attachment #1).
2. The remains of CSM Parfitt were not identified at the time and his name was inscribed on the Vimy Memorial (Attachment #2).
3. At the time of the death, the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion was active in the actions immediately west of Courcelette. Under coverage of an intense barrage the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion moved out past Zollern Trench in the direction of Hessian Trench (Attachment #3). This is depicted in the Nicholson Schematic for the Battle of Thiepval Ridge (Attachment #4). This is an area where battlefield casualties were recovered and interred in the Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt France. The body was exhumed in the area marked as 57D R28 as illustrated by the trench map extract (Attachment #5).
4. There are four (4) CSM's of the 8th Bn. on Vimy (Bishop – [Festubert 1915](#), McCarthy – [Arleux 1917](#), McKenzie - [Arleux 1917](#) and Parfitt – [Courcelette 1916](#)). Only CSM David George Parfitt "D" Coy 8th Bn. was KIA near Courcelette on or about 26 September 1916 (Attachment #6). As noted, the image of the CWGC site was not used in this case as the search also returns two CSM's who were not in the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (Crompton 28<sup>th</sup> Bn., Watts 18<sup>th</sup> Bn.). In addition the CWGC site search misses CSM John McCarthy as it has him listed as the "8<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion", which was not an active unit of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.
5. The CWGC "Graves Registration Report Form" lists the remains in Plot 7 Row G Grave 16 as an "8<sup>th</sup> Canadian UNKNOWN Sgt. Maj." (Attachment #7).
6. The CWGC "Concentrations of Graves (Exhumation and Re-burials) Burial Return" shows the remains were exhumed from the area of Trench Map 57D R28, precisely in the area where the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion CEG was involved on that September 26, 1918. It states the body exhumed was "Sgt. Maj. Unknown 8<sup>th</sup> Cdn. Bn." (Attachment #8).

## Action Required:

The "Investigative Report" has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #9).

It is suggested that a new headstone is required for Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt to denote that the remains in Plot 7 Row G Grave 16 are those of Company Sergeant Major David George Parfitt of the 8<sup>th</sup> Bn. Canadian Infantry, killed in action on September 26, 1916.

# ATTACHMENT #1

|                                                                                                                                     |                                                 |                                                                  |                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. NO.<br><br>602                                                                                                                   | 2. RANK OR RATING<br><br>Company Sergeant Major | 3. SURNAME<br><br>PARFITT                                        | 4. CHRISTIAN NAMES<br><br>David George |
| 5. UNIT OR SHIP<br><br>8th Battalion                                                                                                | 6. DATE OF CASUALTY<br><br>On or since 26-9-16  | 7. H.Q. FILE NO.<br><br>649-P-3830                               | 8. RELIGION<br><br>Church of England   |
| 9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY<br><br>"Previously reported Missing, believed Killed, now for official purposes presumed to have died" |                                                 |                                                                  |                                        |
| 10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN                                                                                   |                                                 |                                                                  |                                        |
| 11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY<br><br>ATTACK NORTH WEST OF COURCELETTE.                                                   |                                                 |                                                                  |                                        |
| NOTE—Items 12, 13 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.                                                |                                                 |                                                                  |                                        |
| 12. CEMETERY                                                                                                                        | 13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY                        | 14. GRAVE LOCATION<br><br>Grave .....<br>Plot .....<br>Row ..... | 15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE            |
| 16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN                                                                                                       | 17. EXPOSURE NO.                                | 18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO                 |                                        |
| 19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.                                                                                   |                                                 |                                                                  |                                        |

# ATTACHMENT #2

FORM E13  
9758. — 10M — 4-6-17.

NUMBER 602 RANK C.S.M. NAME Parfitt, D.G. ✓ 36994

UNIT 8th Battn. (Man.) NEXT-OF-KIN

FILE NO. R.L.

| DATE OF DEATH            | CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH                                                                           | CAS. SHEET No.                     |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ON OR SINCE.<br>26-9-16. | Previously Reported MISSING BELIEVED KILLED<br>Now for Official Purposes Presumed to Have<br>DIED. | A 682                              |
| DATE OF BURIAL           | PLACE OF BURIAL                                                                                    | DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE.              |
| <u>X</u>                 | <b>VIMY</b>                                                                                        |                                    |
|                          | <b>MEMORIAL</b>                                                                                    |                                    |
|                          |                                                                                                    | <span style="color: red;">✓</span> |



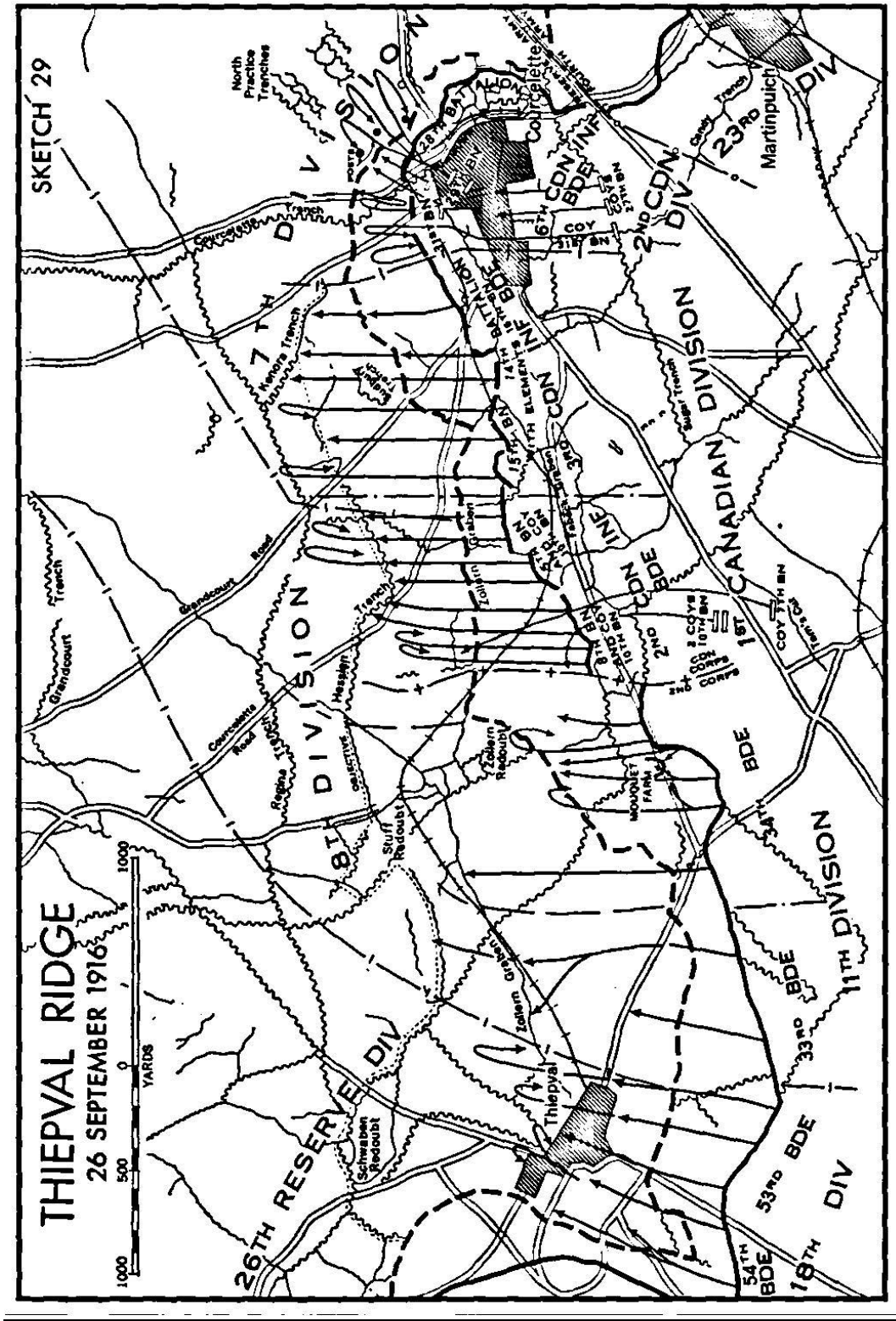
# ATTACHMENT #3

War Diary of the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Bn., CEF for September 26, 1916

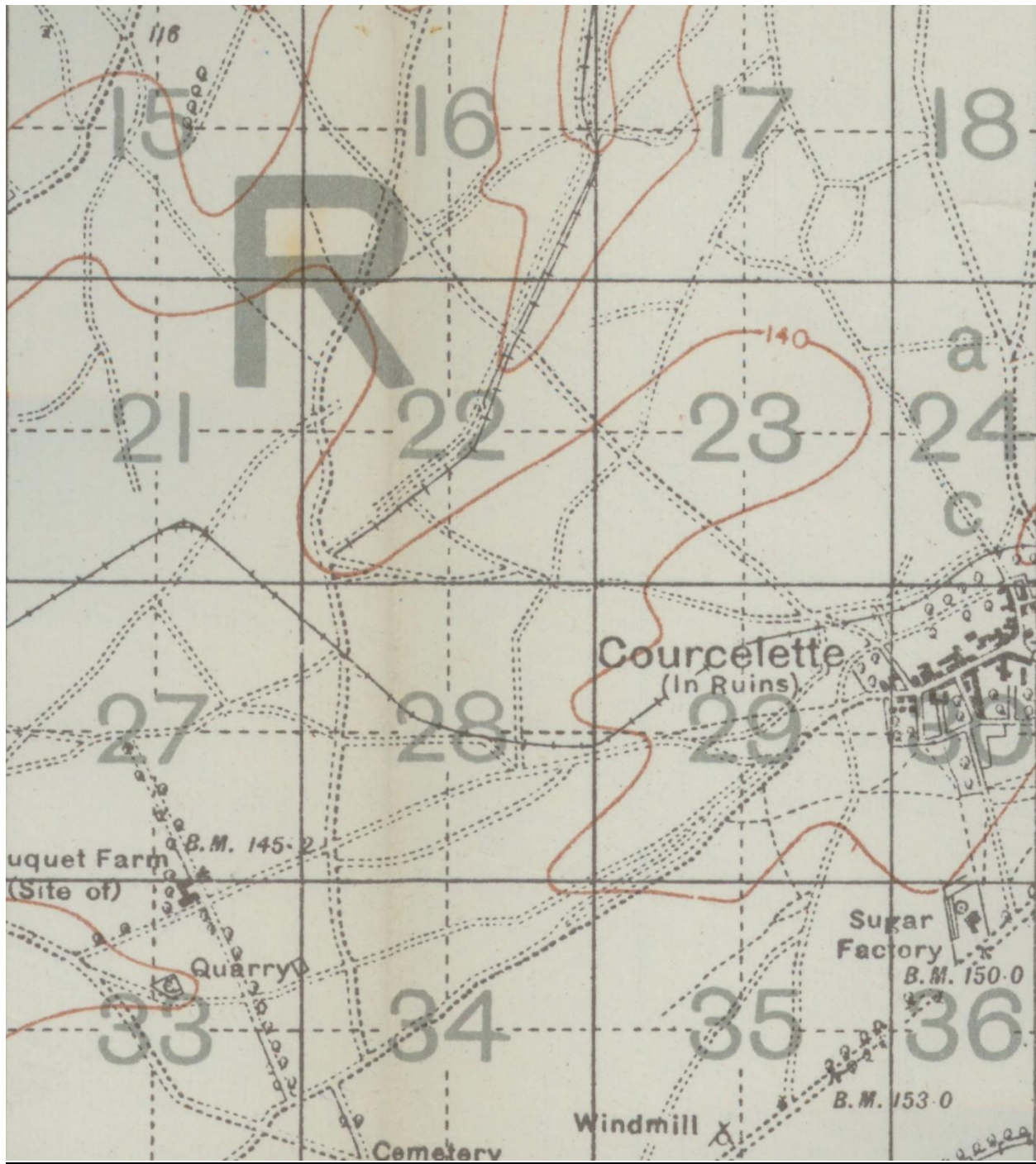
| Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence<br>Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.<br>and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages<br>will be prepared in manuscript. |      | WAR DIARY<br>or<br>INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY<br>(Leave heading not required.) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Army Form C. 2118. | Remarks and<br>references to<br>Appendices |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Place<br>1916.                                                                                                                                                                               | Date | Hour                                                                     | Summary of Events and Information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 15                 |                                            |
| September 26th                                                                                                                                                                               | 26th | 30.<br>11 AM                                                             | All troops reported in their jumping off positions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                    |                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                              |      | 9 am                                                                     | G. O. C. 2nd Bde called and reviewed the situation with the C.O.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                    |                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                              |      | 10 AM                                                                    | Enemy 77. mm shell knocked out crew of a Holt Gun, no fatal wounds and gun undamaged.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                    |                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                              |      | 12.35 pm                                                                 | Our intense bombardment of enemy forward positions, gradually lengthening out over Blue past the ZOLLERN TRENCH, first three waves of the attack went forward under cover of our barrage and occupied the first objective, with the exception of "B" Coy on our exposed flank. Major Makers at once called for artillery action on his left flank after which he was enabled to continue to his first objective. Owing to the intensity of the enemy's retaliation, both Artillery and machine gun, reports were infrequent below. |                    |                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                              |      |                                                                          | In the further advance to the 2nd objective "B" Coy was assisted by the 2 platoons of the 10th Bn. under 1st Lieut. Ewlands, who were ordered to garrison the ZOLLERN TRENCH, (the enemy's front line).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                    |                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                              |      |                                                                          | Lieut. Mair, Turner and O'Neill personally reported the lodgment in the HESSIAN TRENCH of themselves and 80 OAs, remnant of C and D Bys.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                    |                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                              |      |                                                                          | No further reports from B. Coy. As yet no report at all from A. Coy. wounded men from the two left companies i.e. A and B. report that they reached the final objective but had to retire to the 2nd - HESSIAN TRENCH - on account of the failure of the Battalion on their left, penetrating further than their first objective.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                    |                                            |

## **ATTACHMENT #4**

Nicholson Sketch 29 depicting the action at Thiépval Ridge on 26 September 1916



## ATTACHMENT #5



## **ATTACHMENT #6**

| <b>NAME</b>           | <b>DEATH</b> | <b>UNIT</b> | <b>SERVICE #</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| McCARTHY, JOHN J      | 28/04/1917   | 8th Bn.     | #150154          |
| PARFITT, DAVID GEORGE | 26/09/1916   | 8th Bn.     | #602             |
| BISHOP, FREDERICK     | 22/05/1915   | 8th Bn.     | #203             |
| McKENZIE, HUGH        | 28/04/1917   | 8th Bn.     | #A/22564         |

### **Note:**

The image of the CWGC site was not used in this case as the search also returns two CSM's who were not in the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (Crompton 28<sup>th</sup> Bn., Watts 18<sup>th</sup> Bn.). In addition the CWGC site search misses CSM John McCarthy as it has him listed as the "8<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion", which was not an active unit of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. McCarthy was in the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. That CWGC record should be amended accordingly as a separate task.



# ATTACHMENT #7

ELA COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. Army Form W. 3372.

**GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.**

3rd A.S. No. W/ *3579*  
REPORT No. 61. SCHEDULE No. *950*

COMMUNE: *COURCELETTE.*

PLACE OF BURIAL *REGINA TRENCH BRITISH CEMETERY.*

Map Reference *57d.R.23.a.3.1.*

The following are buried here:— *Informations*

| Regiment                  | No.    | Name                    | Rank and Initials                  | Date of Death      | Cross Erected or G. R. U'd. | Plot, Row and Grave |
|---------------------------|--------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>PLOT 7 ROW "G".</b>    |        |                         |                                    |                    |                             |                     |
| 8th Canadian.             |        | UNKNOWN                 | Sgt. Maj.                          | <i>8/10/16</i>     | All                         | Gr. 16 ✓            |
| G.E.F.                    |        | UNKNOWN                 |                                    |                    | Crosses                     | ✓ 17                |
| "                         |        | UNKNOWN CANADIAN        |                                    |                    | Erected.                    | ✓ 18                |
| B.E.F.                    |        | UNKNOWN                 |                                    |                    |                             | ✓ 19                |
| N.Fus.                    | 4293   | GARTHY                  | Pte.                               |                    |                             | ✓ 20                |
| 8th Canadian.             | 486088 | DOW                     | Pte. G.H.                          |                    |                             | ✓ 21                |
| 15th N.Fus.               | 17300  | FRAME                   | Pte. G.W.                          |                    |                             | ✓ 22                |
| N.Fus.                    |        | UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER |                                    |                    |                             | ✓ 23                |
|                           |        | "                       | "                                  | F.Q.50             |                             | ✓ 24                |
| 8th N.Fus.                | 3106   | EFFNER                  | <i>CPL</i><br><del>Pte. W.W.</del> | <i>26.9.16</i>     | <i>G.W.A.</i>               | ✓ 25                |
| G.E.F.                    |        | UNKNOWN                 |                                    |                    |                             | ✓ 26                |
| <del>8th Canadians.</del> |        | <del>POPHAM</del>       | <del>Lt. G.H.</del>                | <i>24 NOV 1920</i> |                             | ✓ 27                |
| 15th N.Fus.               | 15110  | STOKER                  | Pte. J.                            | <i>26.9.16</i>     |                             | ✓ 28                |
| 80 Fd.Co.R.E.             |        | INMAN                   | 2/Lt. D.H.                         | 17-2-17            |                             | ✓ 29                |
| B.E.F.                    |        | UNKNOWN                 |                                    |                    |                             | ✓ 30                |

ENTERED *20*  
SLIPS CHECKED *25.6/121*

(6 31 5) W3160—P2723 100,000 9/19 HWV(P1C24) Forms/W3372/3



**CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES. (EXHUMATION AND RE-BURIALS).**

**BURIAL RETURN.**

REGINA TRENCH BRITISH MILITARY CEMETERY. Location **E. 23.d.3.1.** Sheet **57D**

"A" **8-4-1919.**

A-3-1

Were any Effects forwarded to Base.

| Plot. | Row. | Grave. | Approximate Map Reference where body found.<br>Map 57 D | Was cross found on grave. | Particulars on cross found on grave.      | No |
|-------|------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----|
| 7     | G    | 16     | R. 28                                                   | G.R.U. ✓                  | F.Q. 57 ✓ Sgt. Maj. Unknown. 8th Gdn. Bn. | No |
| 7     | G    | 17     | R. 28                                                   | None ✓                    | Unknown Canadian Soldier                  | No |
| 7     | G    | 18     | R. 29                                                   | G.R.U. ✓                  | Unknown Canadian Soldier                  | No |
| 7     | G    | 19     | R. 28                                                   | None ✓                    | Unknown British Soldier                   | No |
| 7     | G    | 20     | R. 28                                                   | G.R.U. ✓                  | 4293 Pte. Carthy. N.F.                    | No |
| 7     | G    | 21     | R. 28                                                   | G.R.U. ✓                  | 486088 Pte. Dow G.H. 8th Gdn. Bn.         | No |
| 7     | G    | 22     | R. 22                                                   | G.R.U. ✓                  | 19300 Pte. Frame W. 15th N.F.             | No |
| 7     | G    | 23     | R. 28                                                   | G.R.U. ✓                  | Unknown. N.F.                             | No |
| 7     | G    | 24     | R. 28                                                   | G.R.U. ✓                  | Unknown. 10th Gdn. Bn.                    | No |
| 7     | G    | 25     | R. 28                                                   | G.R.U. ✓                  | 3106 Pte. Effner W. 8th N.F.              | No |
| 7     | G    | 26     | R. 28                                                   | None ✓                    | Unknown Canadian Soldier                  | No |
| 7     | G    | 27     | R. 28                                                   | G.R.U. ✓                  | Unknown British Soldier                   | No |
| 7     | G    | 28     | R. 28                                                   | G.R.U. ✓                  | 15110 Pte. Sloker J. 15th N.F.            | No |
| 7     | G    | 29     | R. 11                                                   | Bn. Cross ✓               | 2nd Lt. Inman D.H. 80th Fld. Co. R.E.     | No |
| 7     | G    | 30     | R. 23                                                   | None ✓                    | Unknown British Soldier                   | No |

X6. 3 45c. Set. A.P. & B.S.

This form to be rendered in duplicate, one copy being handed to the Registration Officer and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

E.1087 1-19

## **ATTACHMENT #9**

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

| <b>Procedure:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Guideline Criteria for Submission:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly. | Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later. |

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

| <b>Name</b>      | <b>Affiliation</b>                                                         | <b>E-mail</b>                                                          | <b>Contribution</b> |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Richard Laughton | Private Researcher<br>LMC Great War Research Co.<br>Milton, Ontario CA     | <a href="mailto:rlaughton@laughton.ca">rlaughton@laughton.ca</a>       | Report Author       |
| Chris Wight      | Private Researcher<br>Canadian Great War Project<br>Lakewood, Colorado USA | <a href="mailto:guardsmanegg@hotmail.com">guardsmanegg@hotmail.com</a> | Reviewer            |
|                  |                                                                            |                                                                        |                     |
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